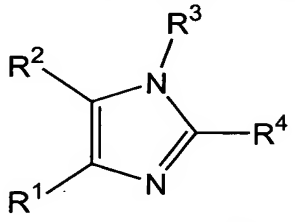
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

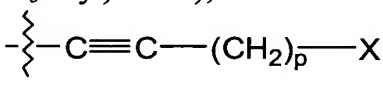
Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-16 without prejudice.

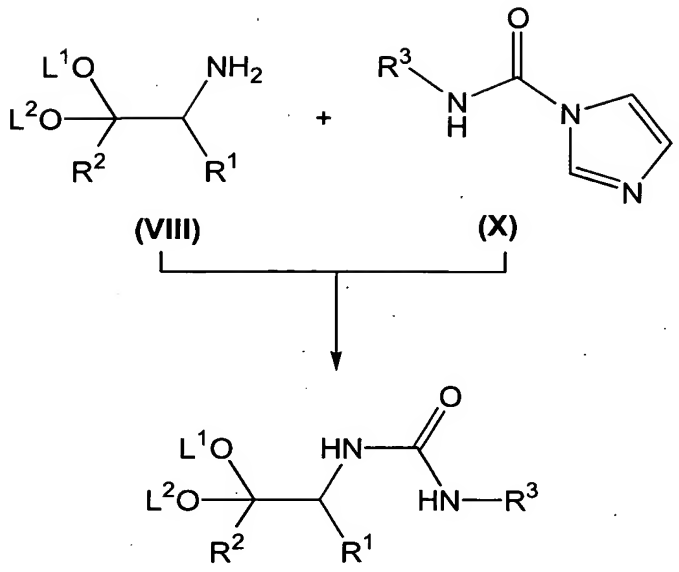
Claim 1. (previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, substituted phenyl, (where the substituents are selected from C_1-C_5alkyl, halogen or trifluoromethyl);
R^2 is a saturated or unsaturated 6 membered ring with 5 carbon atoms and one nitrogen atom;
R^3 is carbocyclic arylC_1-C_5alkyl, wherein the aryl group is optionally substituted with substituents selected from C_1-C_5alkyl, C_1-C_5alkoxy, halogen, amino, C_1-C_5alkylamino or di(C_1-C_5alkyl)amino);
R^4 is  , where
p is an integer from 0 to 9;
X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, vinyl, substituted vinyl, (where one or more substituents are selected from fluorine or chlorine), ethynyl, substituted ethynyl (where the substituent is selected from fluorine or chlorine), C_1-C_5alkyl, substituted C_1-C_5alkyl (where the alkyl substituents are selected from one or more of C_1-C_5alkoxy and trihaloalkyl,), and C_3-C_7cycloalkyl
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

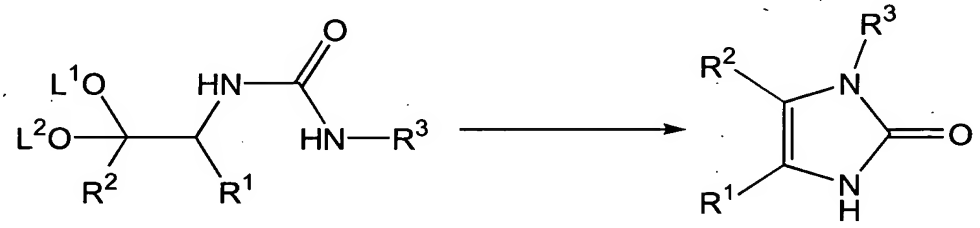
comprising



(VIII) (X)

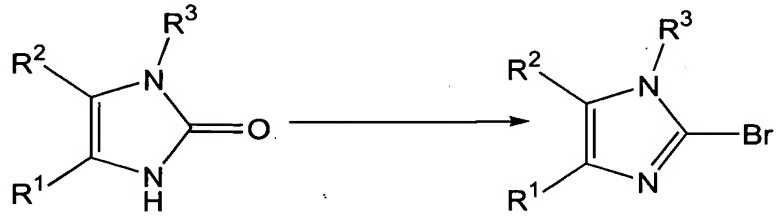
(XI)

reacting a compound of formula (VIII), wherein L^1 and L^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4aralkyl; or L^1 together with L^2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-CH_2-$ (optionally substituted with one to four C_1-C_3 alkyl), and $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (optionally substituted with one to six C_1-C_3 alkyl); with a compound of formula (X), to produce the corresponding compound of formula (XI);



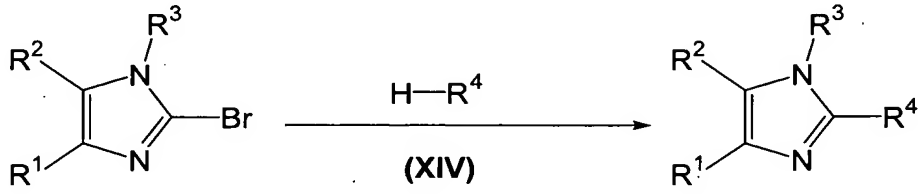
(XI) (XII)

cyclizing the compound of formula (XI), under acid conditions of pH less than about 7, to produce the corresponding compound of formula (XII);



(XII) (XIII)

reacting the compound of formula (XII) with $POBr_3$, PBr_5, or a mixture of PBr_3 and Br_2, to yield the corresponding compound of formula (XIII);

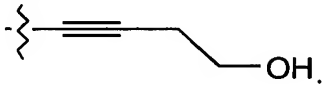


(XIII) **(I)**

displacing the bromine on the compound of formula (XIII) by reacting with a compound of formula (XIV), to produce the corresponding compound of formula (I).

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is 4-fluorophenyl, R^2 is 4-pyridyl, R^3 is 3-phenylpropyl and R^4 is 

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (XII) is reacted with $POBr_3$ in tetramethylenesulfone.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (canceled)

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (canceled)